

**King County begins cleanup in University Slough drainage canal**

King County is beginning efforts to clean up areas of the University Slough drainage canal contaminated by a sewer spill in late May. During the week of June 2, work will focus on a section of the drainage canal between Northeast Forty-Fifth Street and Clark Road. Samples indicate bacteria still exceed quality standards in this section of the waterway following the Ravenna Creek sewer spill.

King County crews diverted flows from Ravenna Creek out of the affected area and closed off boat access to the canal on Friday, May 30. Crews will install stream flow control structures and dewater the area. Once water levels are reduced, crews will wash sediment from woody debris and vacuum out wastewater sediments from the bottom of the canal. Contaminated water and sediment will be transported to the wastewater stream for treatment at King County's West Point plant in Magnolia. Time required to complete the cleanup will depend on conditions.

Sampling conducted over the past week confirms water quality throughout most of the drainage canal has returned to normal levels. To protect public health, signs indicating the area is closed for swimming, wading and fishing will remain posted until after the cleanup is complete. People should avoid contact with the water in this area, and keep dogs on leash and away from the waterway during the remediation work.

King County will continue to monitor the creek during and after remediation activities. Signs will be removed and the area reopened for public use after all activities are complete and monitoring results provided to King County Public Health meet acceptable standards.

King County staff is working closely with the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County Public Health, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the City of Seattle, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the University of Washington on this effort.

Ravenna Creek was rerouted from the King County sanitary sewer system to the drainage canal on the University of Washington campus in 2006. The drainage canal flows through territory that served as a landfill for 40 years before being capped in 1966 and incorporated into the Urban Bay Natural Area.

What to expect

- Crews, trucks and cleanup equipment on UW athletic fields south of Northeast Forty-Fifth Street and east of the cleanup site
- Construction fencing installed along canal's eastern bank
- Stream flow control structures installed at Clark Road bridge
- Increased noise and activity near work site
- Reduced water levels in the drainage canal, especially at its northern end

FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REMEDIATION EFFORTS

- Monica Van der Vieren: 206-255-9105 or monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov
- Visit: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/community/sewer-spill-response/0805-RavennaCreek.htm>

FOR PUBLIC HEALTH QUESTIONS

- Call 206-296-4606
- If you have a health concern, please consult your health care provider

Alternative Formats Available
206-263-7301 or 711 (TTY Relay)